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MEDIA CONTACT

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CELEBRITIES HELP BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HAWAII CELEBRATE YOUTH OF THE YEAR FINALISTS & WINNER

Winner Announced at a Virtual Zoom Event on March 6, 2021

Honolulu, Hawai'i –Selected from several outstanding Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii (BGCH) youth on O'ahu, Siosifa T., a senior at Kahuku High & Intermediate School and member of the Waianae Clubhouse has been named the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii 2021 Youth of the Year at a virtual celebration on March 6, 2021.

Hundreds of guests attended the special event via Zoom and had the opportunity to hear the finalists' inspiring stories and the winner announcement. During the Celebration, celebrities like 2-time Olympic gold medalist and 2-Time FIFA World Cup Champion Mia Hamm, Emmy & Grammy Award Winner Paula Abdul, Jason Pierre-Paul Outside Line Backer for the 2021 Super Bowl Champions Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 3-time Grammy Award Winner Singer Songwriter Ne-Yo, Grammy and Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award Winner 'Ukulele Master artist and composer, BGCH Club Alum, Jake Shimabukuro and more surprised the three BGCH YOY finalists with personalized "shout outs" of congratulations. All five YOY 2021 candidates were also surprised with an "achievement swag bag" which consisted of a brand new laptop, gift cards, and more. The swag bags were generously underwritten by YOY 2021 Presenting sponsor Jack in the Box Hawaii and Gold Sponsors, SERVCO Pacific and the LRY Foundation. Each finalist also receives a scholarship from BGCH which will help to pay for college tuition, books, and other necessary items needed to graduate and pursue their dreams.

"Congratulations to Siosifa from our Waianae Clubhouse! We are so proud of him and the young men and women who represent their Clubs and communities with courage and leadership", said Paddy Kauhane, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii. "Having a dedicated program to celebrate teens whose Club experience has empowered them to find their voice and achieve success is so important to Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii (BGCH). We are so grateful to our communities, staff, and donors who support BGCH for this program and throughout the year."



The Youth of the Year title is a prestigious honor bestowed upon an exemplary young person in recognition of leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to live a healthy lifestyle. Siosifa will go on to contend for the State of Hawaii Youth of the Year title from Boys & Girls Clubs of America on March 30th. If Siosifa is named the Hawaii State Youth of the Year, he will contend for the title of Pacific Regional Youth of the Year. Six finalists will advance to vie for the title of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's National Youth of the Year.

The BGCH 2021 Youth of the Year is presented by Jack in the Box Hawaii. This year's celebration is also sponsored by SERVCO Pacific, Inc., the LRY Foundation, First Hawaiian Bank, Aulani-Disney Resort & Spa, American Savings Bank, PASHA Hawaii, U.H.A. Health Insurance, Locations Foundation, Boys Bunch Honolulu, The Cades Foundation, and Southwest Airlines. Their continued support of Club youth allows for the sponsorship of the next great success story.

To donate to Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii Youth of the Year scholarships, visit www.bgch.com/donate

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About Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii:

Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii (BGCH) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving more than 14,000 youth, ages 7 to 17 each year on O'ahu and Kaua'i. The mission of Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. BGCH Clubhouses and outreach sites provide affordable membership and guidance-oriented development programs that emphasize education, technology, and career development; health and life skills; the arts; character and leadership development; and sports, fitness, and recreation. BGCH is an affiliate of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and has been operating in Hawai'i since 1976. For more information, visit BGCH.com and follow us on Instagram and Facebook @bgch808, or call or call (808) 949-4203.

About Youth of the Year:

Youth of the Year is Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier recognition program for Club teens. The National Youth of the Year title is the highest honor a Club member can receive, representing the voice of four million Club youth. The Youth of the Year program has recognized young people for their outstanding leadership, service, academic excellence and dedication to living a healthy lifestyle. Over the decades, these individuals have exemplified the Boys & Girls Club mission and are proof to the impact Clubs make in transforming and saving kids' lives. National Youth of the Year winners have achieved success in a variety of industries, including entertainment, politics, business and sports.